

Application No. 09/550,103

Filed: April 14, 2000

Group Art Unit: 1647

Amendments to the Claims

The following is a list of all pending claims. Claims 1-4 are withdrawn from consideration.

Claims 1-4. (Withdrawn)

Claim 5. (Previously amended) A method of identifying a therapeutic process or agent for treating schizophrenia or a related neuropsychiatric disorder involving a dopamine D<sub>4</sub> receptor, said method comprising the steps of:

(a) establishing an assay system comprising a cultured cell line, said cultured cell line either naturally expressing D<sub>4</sub> receptors or transfected with the D<sub>4</sub> receptor gene;

(b) making an initial determination of the level of phospholipid methylation in cells of said cell line;

(c) administering to cells of said cell line the candidate therapeutic process or agent to be assessed;

(d) making a subsequent determination of the level of phospholipid methylation in cells of said cell line; and

(e) comparing the corresponding levels of phospholipid methylation from steps (b) and (d), wherein an increase in the level of phospholipid methylation subsequent to administration of the candidate therapeutic process or agent indicates that the candidate process or agent is potentially therapeutically effective for treating schizophrenia or said related neuropsychiatric disorder.

Claim 6. (Original) The method of claim 5, further including, prior to step (e), the step of determining the level of

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phospholipid methylation in the presence or absence of added D<sub>4</sub> receptor agonists and/or antagonists.

Claim 7. (Original) The method of claim 5, wherein the determination of the level of phospholipid methylation is carried out by labelling of the methylfolate pool.

Claim 8. (Original) The method of claim 6, wherein the level of phospholipid methylation is determined by labelling the methylfolate pool with [<sup>14</sup>C]-formic acid.

Claim 9. (Original) The method of claim 5, wherein steps (c), (d) and (e) are carried out more than once.